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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 31 May 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

At a time when the international community is fully and responsibly focused on promoting an environment conducive to the achievement of a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and seeks serious and coordinated action to salvage the prospects for realizing the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, Israel, the occupying Power, in word and in deed is demonstrating its deliberate intent to ensure the failure of these efforts as it continues to recklessly defy the rule of law and the position and will of the international community and to choose continued occupation and conflict over peace. Israel's illegal actions and intransigence continue to deny and obstruct peace, freedom, justice and security for the Palestinian people and continue to inflame tensions on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to stoke sensitivities throughout the region and beyond.

Before recalling the most recent violations of international law by the occupying Power, we wish to stress the position of the Palestinian leadership in welcoming some of the positions publicly declared by United States President Barack Obama in the major policy statement he delivered regarding the Middle East, on 19 May 2011, including his affirmation of the two-State solution based on the 1967 borders, and that negotiations should begin with the issues of borders and security. The Palestinian leadership welcomes his position that all final status issues, particularly the crucial issues of Jerusalem and the Palestine refugees, will also be on the agenda of negotiations, as they are issues of central importance to the Palestinian people and were determined to be core final status issues at the outset of the peace process and throughout for the past two decades.

Further, in connection with President Obama's speech, the Palestinian leadership has underscored the necessity for the Security Council and the Quartet to establish an effective mechanism and specific timetable, not to exceed September 2011, in order to implement the parameters set out by President Obama and all other political

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terms of reference that are based on international legitimacy in order to launch a serious political process towards the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement.

While many world leaders welcomed the articulation by President Obama of this important position, in particular his affirmation that the borders of an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine and Israel should be based on 1967 lines, it is highly regrettable that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu responded with his usual tone of blatant defiance and arrogance, making provocative and irresponsible statements amounting to the destruction of the two-State solution and the prospects for it to serve as the foundation for a future of peace, justice and security between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. The provocative statements made in his speech before the joint session of the United States Congress on Tuesday, 24 May 2011, have only further raised tension, further exposed the Israeli Government's true ill intentions and further called into question its credibility as a peace partner. Indeed, the Prime Minister's statements throughout this recent period offered not a single concrete possibility for restarting a genuine peace process. Moreover, the facts on the ground and the illegal Israeli policies, particularly Israel's insidious and unlawful settlement colonization campaign that has continued in tandem with the verbal provocations and incitement, are totally poisoning the atmosphere and undermining the efforts to resume peace negotiations.

Over the past 14 days, the Israeli Government has approved thousands of new illegal settlement units in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. On 19 May 2011, the occupying Power announced its intentions to build up to 1,500 settlement units in the so-called settlements of Har Homa and Pisgat Zeev in Occupied East Jerusalem. This was followed on Wednesday, 26 May 2011, a day after the Prime Minister's provocative statement that "Jerusalem will never be divided", by a ceremony to mark the completion of the second phase of another 60 settlement units in Ras al-Amud, in the heart of a highly populated and bustling Arab neighbourhood at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Occupied East Jerusalem. This most recent scheme is part and parcel of the occupying Power's attempt, along with its ring of other illegal settlements in the Palestinian neighbourhoods such as Silwan, Issawiya, Al-Tur and Sheikh Jarrah, to illegally, deliberately and artificially sever East Jerusalem from the rest of the Palestinian Territory and destroy that Territory's contiguity and viability.

At the same time, the occupying Power has continued to pursue home demolitions and evictions of Palestinian families, particularly in Occupied East Jerusalem. We express our appreciation in this regard to the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mrs. Valerie Amos, who recently called on Israel to end its forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We reiterate that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, it remains occupied, and that, in the context of the two-State solution for peace, on which there is a clear international consensus based on international law, United Nations resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, it is to be the capital of the State of Palestine. We also reiterate that all Israeli settlements are illegal under international law and as such must neither be permitted to prejudge the outcome of final status negotiations nor should they enjoy any legitimacy from the international community. It must be made clear to Israel, once and for all, that

the creation of so-called facts on the ground will never make legal or legitimate what is illegal under international law and what is considered a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Israel also continues its repressive, brutal campaign of violence, intimidation and harassment of the Palestinian people under its nearly 44-year military occupation. The illegal settlers, who continue to rampage throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory with impunity, are a central part of this force of repression. In the current period, the occupying forces have allowed more settler violence and destruction to be perpetrated and have continued to use excessive force and violence against peaceful Palestinian protesters, particularly those protesting the settlements and the Wall, and to carry out military raids and arrest campaigns on a daily basis. This has included the arrest of a 74-year-old woman in the village of Arura, north of Ramallah, after occupying forces raided her home.

The incitement spewed this week by Prime Minister Netanyahu, along with Israel's escalating settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and all other provocations as mentioned above require the serious attention of the international community. The continuation of this situation will only cause further deterioration of conditions on the ground, exacerbate heightened tensions, and destroy all international and regional efforts to revive the peace process in any form. We thus call on the international community, the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to assume its full responsibilities and to act urgently, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, to put an end to these illegal Israeli policies and intentional provocations, in order to salvage the hopes that may still exist to advance peace and security for all the people in the region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 392 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 May 2011 (A/ES-10/519-S/2011/308), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/521–S/2011/343

General Assembly
Security Council

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7 June 2011

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 6 June 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Yesterday, the Palestinian people solemnly observed the passage of the forty-fourth year since Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab lands in 1967. It was a day marked with high sensitivities as the Palestinian people under occupation and throughout the Diaspora reflected on the decades of injustice and oppression inflicted by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian people and its continuing denial and violation of their inalienable human rights and obstruction of the fulfilment of their legitimate national aspirations for freedom, justice, peace, security and dignity in their homeland.

In this connection, it is my profound regret to inform you of the brutal killing and injury by Israel, the occupying Power, of yet more unarmed, defenceless Palestinian civilian protesters. In a repeat of the lethal actions perpetrated on 15 May 2011, the Israeli occupying forces responded to civilian demonstrators in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Occupied Syrian Golan with excessive and indiscriminate force that caused dozens of casualties.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Palestinian civilians protesting the Israeli occupation were immediately fired at with tear gas, sound bombs, noxious sprays and rubber bullets as they approached the military checkpoint erected by the occupying Power in the Qalandiya area between Ramallah and Jerusalem. It has been reported that at least 120 civilians were injured by the Israeli occupying forces, including at least nine paramedics who had been attempting to provide aid to the injured protesters. In the Occupied Syrian Golan, hundreds of demonstrators, the majority of them Palestine refugees, were attacked with deadly force by Israel, the occupying Power, leading to even greater casualties than on 15 May. It has been reported that at least 23 Palestinian civilians, all unarmed, peaceful protesters, were brutally killed and dozens more were wounded by the Israeli occupying forces in the confrontation that occurred in the town of Majdal Shams.

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The Palestinian leadership condemns Israel's killing of these unarmed civilians attempting to peacefully demonstrate against the brutal and oppressive 44-year Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land and for the realization of their rights and justice. The international community, including the Security Council, must hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for the killing and wounding of civilians, so many of whom have been seriously and permanently injured, such as a young Palestinian man, Munib Al-Masri, who was injured in the Israeli attack on protesters last month in Maroun Al-Ras in southern Lebanon and has been tragically rendered disabled for life. Further, Israel must be called upon by the international community to respect the right of civilians to peaceful protest and to cease its use of excessive, indiscriminate and lethal force against them.

In the context of these recent serious developments and in the light of the strong international consensus that prevails regarding the parameters for achieving a final peace settlement in accordance with the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, it is high time that the international community undertake immediate and concrete measures to send the appropriate message to Israel, the occupying Power, that this 44-year, illegitimate military occupation of the Palestinian people and their land must come to a complete end. In this regard, it is worth drawing attention to the fact that there is even strong Israeli support for the two-State solution, as expressed by the thousands who took part in a peace demonstration on Saturday, 4 June, in the city of Tel Aviv, rallying for an end to the occupation and in support of the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders.

Israel must be compelled to abide by all of its obligations under international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions in this regard; the rule of law must apply to all members of the international community without exception. Indeed, it is high time to bring an end to Israel's impunity and its self-proclaimed immunity from the law and to firmly reject and challenge the illogical and empty pretexts repeatedly used by the occupying Power to justify its illegal actions, including in particular its insidious settlement colonization campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Challenging Israel's unlawful measures and rhetoric in this regard in a way that effects change and adherence to the law will markedly alter the political and physical environment, offering a real opportunity for credible peace negotiations to succeed.

The Palestinian people and their leadership thus reiterate their appeal to the international community to uphold the political, legal and moral responsibilities towards the question of Palestine. Serious and coordinated efforts must be exerted to advance the achievement of a final peace settlement that justly resolves all aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including ensuring an end to the Israeli occupation and the realization by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and ensuring a just and lasting solution to the plight of the Palestine refugees. The international community should not be deterred by Israel's arrogant and spiteful intransigence; on the contrary, it should be more insistent than ever that international law prevail in all circumstances and should no longer tolerate Israel's illegal policies and practices that are rapidly destroying the two-State solution and the chances to achieve peace and security in the Middle East.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 393 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since

28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 31 May 2011 (A/ES-10/520-S/2011/331) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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